7th March 1955]

Loss due to sale of wheat

* 1129 Q.—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN (on behalf of Sri K. Aranganathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of loss sustained by Government in Madras district on account of wrong fixation of price of wheat during 1951:

(b) whether the loss has been made good and if so, how; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the officials responsible for this loss?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) The loss sustained by the Government is Rs. 74,527-13-4.

" (b) Against a total loss of Rs. 74,527-13-4, a sum of rupees 48,809-9-3 was realized by increasing the issue price of imported maida subsequently. The balance sum of rupees 25,718-4-1 could not be realized owing to the decontrol of wheat products.

" (c) Suitable action is being taken against the persons responsible for this loss."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" When was this discovery made and what is the suitable action proposed to be taken against the delinquents? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" This relates to what happened in 1951. I have already stated that the Government are examining what action they should take against those who are found to be responsible for this loss."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" May I know whether the loss was due to any slip committed by the officials or was it deliberately created due to partisanship and favouritism shown to merchants? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" This was due to an error in price fixation committed by some subordinate staff in the office of the Collector of Madras."

Private electricity undertakings

* 1130 Q.—SRI S. S. KOLKEBAIL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Statutory Electricity Board under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 (Central Act LIV of 1948):

(b) if so, when and who the members of the Board are;

(c) whether there are any private electrical undertakings in the State, which have been incorporated either in England or in India;

(d) if so, whether the Government have looked into the profit and loss accounts of those companies; and